

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP, EEC

SUBJECT: "NEW SPAIN IN EUROPE" SYMPOSIUM

REF GWYNN-DOHERTY TELCON JANUARY 15

1. SUMMARY: A TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM ENTITLED "A NEW SPAIN IN THE FACE OF EUROPE" WAS HELD IN BRUSSELS JANUARY 10-11. THE PURPOSE OF THE SYMPOSIUM WAS TO BRING TOGETHER LEADERS OF OPPOSITION FORCES IN SPAIN WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND VARIOUS EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND SPAIN. THE SYMPOSIUM WAS SPONSORED BY THE "PRESENT-DAY EUROPEAN REALITIES CLUB". IT WAS NOT OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ALTHOUGH EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT ATIERRO SPINELLI AND OTHER EC OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED. END SUMMARY.

2. APPROXIMATELY 40 REPRESENTATIVES OF OPPOSITION PARTIES, TRADE UNIONS, INDUSTRY, AND UNIVERSITIES IN SPAIN GATHERED IN BRUSSELS  
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LAST WEEKEND TO

DISCUSS THE LIKELY COURSE OF EC-SPANISH RELATIONS THE THE "NEW SPAIN" RETURNS TO THE FAMILY OF DEMOCRATIC EUROPE". THE TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM WAS SPONSORED BY THE "PRESENT-DAY EUROPEAN REALITIES CLUB" UNDER THE PRINCIPAL DIRECTION OF ENRIQUE GIRONDELLA, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISE. EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SPINELLI, RAYMOND RIFFLET OF THE EC SOCIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE AND THEO RASSCHAERT, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), COLLABORATED WITH GIRONDELLA IN ORGANIZING THE SYMPOSIUM.

3. IN ADDITION TO SPINELLI, PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS FROM THE EC SIDE WERE: JEAN REY, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE EC COMMISSION, ALFRED BERTRAND AND ERNEST GLINNE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND RIFFLET. RASSCHAERT WAS THE CHIEF TRADE UNION SPOKESMAN.

4. GIRONDELLA KEYNOTED FOR THE SPANISH SIDE CLAIMING THAT SPAIN IS AT A DECISIVE TURNING POINT IN HISTORY AND THAT THERE IS "PERFECT UNITY OF IDENTITY IN SPAIN BETWEEN THE WILL TO DEMOCRATIZE AND THE WILL TO BELONG TO EUROPE". OTHER SPANISH SPEAKERS WERE: PROFESSOR RAMON TRIAS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA; MADRID INDUSTRIALIST JOAQUIN GARRIQUES; VALENCIA JOURNALIST VICENTE VENTURE; MADRID SOCIOLOGIST LUIS GONZALES SEARA; RAUL MORDO FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID; MADRID JOURNALIST JOSE MANUEL ARIGA AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT PEDRO ALTARES RALAVERA FROM MADRID.

5. ON JANUARY 13 MISSION OFFICERS MET WITH MADRID PROFESSOR MANUEL MEDINA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SYMPOSIUM. MEDINA WAS QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC AND IS AMONG PARTICIPANTS ADVOCATING A FOLLOW-UP SYMPOSIUM WHICH WOULD SERVE TO KEEP BOTH SIDES UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE AND SPAIN AND PROVIDE FOR A CONTINUING DIALOG. HE SAID THE SYMPOSIUM WAS FAR MORE IMPORTANT FOR SPAIN, PARTICULARLY IN A POLITICAL SENSE, THAN IT WAS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. IN COMMENTING ON THE TRADE UNION SITUATION IN SPAIN, MEDINA DERRIDED THE SOCIALIST UGT AS A MOVEMENT WITHOUT SOLDIERS. HE SAID THAT THE WORKER COMMISSIONS REPRESENT THE ONLY REAL POLITICAL POWER IN THE SPANISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT OUTSIDE THE BASQUE COUNTRY.

6. THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE SUBSEQUENTLY TALKED WITH MIGUEL MARTINEZ,

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UGT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE ICFTU, WHO DESCRIBED THE SYMPOSIUM AS A "BLOODY BORE" AND AN "ARTIFICIAL INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE". MARTINEZ, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SYMPOSIUM, SAID THAT IF IT WERE HELD 10 YEARS AGO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A SIGNIFICANT EVENT. TODAY, HE SAID, THESE KINDS OF MEETINGS CAN BE HELD IN SPAIN WITH RELATIVE FREEDOM. HE WAS AMUSED BY THE PARTICIPATION OF KNOWN COMMUNISTS AT THE MEETING WHO

"HAVE BECOME MORE EUROPEAN THAN ANYONE ELSE IN RECENT YEARS", MARTINEZ

TOLD US THAT THE UGT IS THE ONLY TRULY ORGANIZED NATIONAL TRADE  
UNION FORCE IN THE COUNTRY AND IS THUS PREPARED TO ASSUME AN IMPORTANT

ROLE IN POST-FRANCO SPAIN. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED  
WORKER COMMISSIONS WERE NOT STRUCTURED TO FUNCTION AS TRADE UNIONS AND

THAT AS DEMOCRACY EVOLVES, THE COMMISSIONS WILL DECLINE IN IMPOR-  
TANCE AND INFLUENCE.

7. THE SYMPOSIUM APPARENTLY DID NOT RECEIVE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE  
BUT WAS SUBJECT OF A DETAILED REPORT AND EDITORIAL IN AGENCE EUROPE,  
AUTHORITATIVE DAILY NEWSLETTER REPORTING ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS.  
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